തിനു ശേഷമേ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു് ന്യായമായ നിലയിൽ അപേക്ഷിയ്ക്കുവാൻ ഇടയുള്ളുവെന്നാണു് എനിയ്ക്കു തോന്നുന്നതു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ ഒരു മാറ്റം ത്വരിത്തിയാൽ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു സൌകര്യത്തിനു കിട്ടുമെന്നുള്ള ഉദ്ദേശത്തോടു കൂടിയാണു് ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയം ഇവിടെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചതു്. അതു് ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനു് സമ്മതമില്ലെങ്കിൽ ഇനിയെങ്കിലും താമസം വരാതെ കിട്ടത്തക്കവണ്ണം ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ പ്രത്യേകമായ അന്വേഷണം ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ എടുക്കാമെന്നു സമ്മതിയ്ക്കുന്ന പക്ഷം എനിയ്ക്കും അതു സമ്മതമാണു്. ഗവൺമെണ്ടിൽ നിന്നും ആ മറുപടി കൂടി കിട്ടിയാൽ എന്തു വേണമെന്നു വെച്ചാൽ അതു ചെയ്യാമെന്നു വിചാരിയ്ക്കുന്നു.

മിസ്റ്റർ ഐ. എൻ. മേനോൻ.—സ്റ്റെപ്പൻറു ശരിയായി കിട്ടുന്നില്ല എന്നാണു് മെമ്പരുടെ ആക്ഷേപം. മറ്റു കാര്യങ്ങൾ എല്ലാം പ്രൊട്ടക്ട്ക്കു ചെയ്യുവാൻ ഉള്ളതാണു്. ഈ സ്റ്റെപ്പൻറിന്റെ കാര്യം മാത്രം ആണെങ്കിൽ അതു വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിൽ നിന്നും ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കുവാൻ പ്രയാസമില്ല. ബാക്കിയുള്ള കാര്യങ്ങളും കൂടി വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേയ്ക്കു എടുത്തു ചെയ്യുവാൻ സാധിയ്ക്കയില്ല. സ്റ്റെപ്പൻറു മാത്രമാണെങ്കിൽ അതിനെ സ്വീകരിച്ചു വേണ്ടതു ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കുവാൻ യാതൊരു വിരോധവുമില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. വള്ളോൻ.—ഗവൺമെണ്ടിൽ നിന്നു് ഇതു സ്വീകരിച്ചതായി പറയുന്നതു കൊണ്ടു് ഞാൻ ഈ റസല്യൂഷനെ പിൻവലിയ്ക്കുവാൻ അനുവാദം ചോദിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Resolution withdrawn with leave of the House.

Irrigation Scheme—Nemmara Firkah.

Mr. K. G. Nayar.—"This Council recommends to the Government that some final decision may be arrived at in the near future regarding any irrigation scheme for the agriculturers in Nemmara Firkah". Sir, the subject matter of the resolution which I have now tabled for the consideration of this House is one entirely of local importance, confining its activities only to a limited portion of my constituency and my only excuse for introducing the same is the long-felt necessity for it. Unlike other parts of the Cochin State, I can tell the Hon'ble Members of this House that paddy cultivation in that part of the Cochin State is not flourishing since it mainly depends upon rain water for its cultivation. This is a matter which has very often been brought to the notice of the Government and I remember that as long ago as 15 years back when I was a young student of the school, this matter was taken up for consideration by the then Diwan and various schemes were under consideration, contemplation and investigation. The net result of all these schemes and consideration for the past so many years has been that the matter is still under consideration as was answered by the Hon'ble the Chief Engineer to the

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Government yesterday. Sir, I may tell the Hon'ble Members of this House that unlike the other parts of our State where the yield is 100 fold, 40 fold, 60 fold or 50 fold, in our parts the average is only 10 or maximum 15 fold. It will be rather surprising for you to hear how, in that part of the country where conditions must not be very dissimilar to those existing in neighbouring parts, the yield should be so disproportionately low. But I can assure this House that it is for want of facility for irrigation that our lands are suffering so actutely and the necessity for either converting the one crop land into double crop or for increased facilities for raising the second crop on the already double crop lands has been already felt and recognized. The only thing that the Government has to do is to devise ways and means by which the long felt necessity might be got over now.

To a question put by me, 207, which was answered yesterday the Governmet have given an answer; *i. e* , question (a)—"whether they have any idea of introducing any useful scheme of irrigation for the benefit of the agricultural population of Nemmara"; the answer has been "yes." That is really satisfactory. To another question put by my Hon'ble friend, the Hon'ble Member for Chittur(rural), question 217, the Government have given an answer regarding some other schemes taken up by the Government in years past and they are the Pothundi Irrigation Scheme and the diversion scheme. The answers given are that these schemes now proposed will not irrigate the whole agricultural area of that locality.

So then the result of long consideration on the part of the Government is that they recognize the necessity for introducing some scheme of irrigation and they have not devised at present any proper scheme that will benefit the entire agricultural population of Nemmara. So it is up to me, as a Member representing my constituency, to request the Government to see whether they can devise proper ways and means by which they can afford ample relief to the agricultural population, by seeing that their parambas or one crop land or their present double crop lands would be augmented in their yield by sufficient quantity of water supply.

Two considerations naturally arise while tackling this problem. The first is whether there are ample facilities for bringing about a scheme and the second is whether the Government can, at present, commit itself in such a financial enterprise. I have in my own little way considered these two aspects and I found that the Government will not involve itself or get itself involved to a very high decree on its financial aspect by taking to some useful schemes of irrigation there. In all other parts of the State the soil is different. There are other agricultural and irrigational facilities in those parts of

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the country and it is only this part that has been not cared for. The Hon'ble the Chief Engineer to the Government will be pleased to enlighten us on the schemes now proposed or is sought to be introduced and the advantages arising therefrom and the money that has to be spent by the Government. These are matters which I am sure the Hon'ble the Chief Engineer to the Government will tell the House very soon after I sit down.

I venture to say that even though this matter was being agitated for the past so many years, the Government went on with other schemes in my own little constituency of Nemmara, for example, the Nelliampathi ghat road. It is a fine beautiful road recently constructed at an enormous cost by the Government and the only question I wish to ask is what section of the public is benefited by the construction of that road. I am told lakhs and lakhs of rupees are spent on that matter and yet I dare say not one agriculturist in that locality is benefited by the Government having spent lacks of rupees on that matter. If any of the Hon'ble Members on the floor of this House will come and visit the ghat road at any time and see or learn for themselves the amount of money that the Government has spent it will be a wonder for us. I do not wish to characterise it in strong language. It will be heart-rending sight to see that our money is frittered in so many useless enterprises. I may be pardoned for the strong expression. I myself had the privilege and pleasure to see its working and I can assure that any one of the Hon'ble gentlemen, if only he will visit that locality, will understand what section of the public utilises that road and is benefitted by the road. I say that every one of you will agree with me that that portion of the Cochin State revenue has been uselessly spent. So I shall ask this simple question: Cannot the Hon'ble Member for Engineering find out, as contrasted with these wonderful schemes on the Ghat road, similar enterprises or some useful scheme of irrigation by which the whole population can be benefitted?

I might also say that there seems to be some difference of opinion in my constituency. I am glad that inspite of that—because it is only a small section—the Chief Engineer has found the necessity for an irrigation scheme so that I am not going to tackle that aspect of the question at all. My resolution is so mildly worded that it is rather a painful appeal to the Government because I have worded this resolution as follows:—"That this Council recommends to the Government that some decision may be finally arrived at in the near future regarding any irrigation scheme for the agriculturers in Nemmara Firkah." The Hon'ble Members of this House can very well see the spirit of my resolution because I was fully aware that when I tabled this resolution the Government was

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willing to see that some scheme or other be introduced there.

The scheme now under contemplation or as given to me in answer to question No. 207, is that 2 channels, one, from the Pothundi stream and the other from the Peranda stream, are to be constructed. These I am told are small channels which will not irrigate the major portion of the land. So I would impress upon the Government and especially the Hon'ble Member for engineering these three or four aspects, namely, that in the scheme that is going to be introduced the main consideration should be how much of the one crop land can be converted into double crop and how much of the present double crop lands can be augmented by a supply of water and third, the amount of money that is necessary and last, to see that the major population of this locality is benefitted thereby. In short the principle that should guide the Government in such a nature should be the maximum benefit for the maximum public and that, perhaps, in these days when we have got the old cry of financial embarassment, with the minimum amount of money required. I am told that in cases like this where people require some money, it may be said that this question can be shelved to the future. I really wish to emphasise this aspect that the Government may be pleased not to shelve this question as one under consideration by the Government so characteristically given in this question (e), that this will receive due consideration by the Government. My only request is that it should be taken up in the near future. In as much as Government has committed that they feel the necessity for introducing a scheme, 'the near future' may be so elastically considered and that 'due consideration by the Government' may also be translated into proper action in the coming year, and the Chief Engineer will be able to see that the amount sufficient for the work is included in his budget for 1109 and carry out the useful scheme of irrigation for Nemmara by which the maximum number of agriculturists may be benefitted. It is purely a non-controversial matter. I only wish that the Hon'ble Members of this House who have had any occasion to visit that locality may have something to do for the improvement of that locality.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Sir, I wish to second this resolution. I do not think that the Government will find it very difficult to accept this resolution. It is so vaguely worded that Government can, without any discussion, accept it because the Government can accept it and bring it into effect at any time they like. The Hon'ble Member has made sufficiently clear that it is a very urgent need so far as the people are concerned. I had occasion to go to that place and I have acquainted myself with this problem. I am personally satisfied and I endorse all

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that the Hon'ble mover has said on behalf of these projects which he has put forward. With these few words, I second the resolution.

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—Sir, as the Hon'ble Member himself has admitted the answer given by the Government to his questions and the questions of the Member for Chittur yesterday show that the Government is already in earnest about the question of taking the irrigation problem in Nemmara firkah. If there is any place in the Cochin State which requires irrigation water most, it is in the eastern taluk of Chittur *cum* Nemmara and nobody is more in earnest about dealing with the question than the Government itself. About 10 or 12 years ago the Government appointed a special Engineer to deal with that question and he had submitted a report devising a scheme costing about 10 lakhs of rupees. The Government was on the point of sanctioning it when an influential section of the people of Nemmara sent protest petitions and waited in deputations not only upon the officers of the Government but even went to the length of petitioning the Agent to the Governor-General. It was on account of these strong representations that that big scheme had to be abandoned. In the light of these representations the scheme was further considered and though it was not so harmful as they attempted to make out still the advantages that accrue by spending 10 lakhs were not exactly commensurate with the financial commitments involved. So that question was shelved. Again some two or three years ago this question was again investigated and attempts were made to arrive at a scheme which was less ambitious and at the same time fairly useful in proportion to the money spent. Our Engineers have prepared plans and estimates and have evolved two small schemes, as I said yesterday, one, for diverting water from the Pothundi stream and the other, the Peranda stream. The plans and estimates for these two are ready for sanction and Government hope to take them up in the year 1109, provided the Revenue Department to whom the question has been referred report favourably on the financial aspect of it. Our investigations go to show that by spending 20 thousand rupees in each of these schemes we will be able to irrigate one thousand five hundred acres of land and according to our calculations this will bring an out-turn of about 6 per cent. So from a purely technical point of view the schemes are very promising not only as a protective measure but as a productive measure. But how far those lands which will be benefited by these two schemes are capable of being exploited by agriculturists is for the Diwan Peishkar to decide and the Government

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has placed the whole matter before the Diwan Peishkar. His report has not yet, so far as I know, been received by the Government. If he reports favourably about these two schemes there is no doubt that Government will provide necessary money in the next year's budget. On the other hand if he were to say that the lands these schemes are designed to benefit cannot be really converted into either single crop or double crop, there is no meaning in spending money on a scheme which will not benefit the lands which will be commanded by the canals. So the whole thing depends on what the Diwan Peishkar reports. From this brief description of our activities I am quite sure that the Member for Nemmara will agree that the Government is in real earnest and there is no intention to shirk the responsibility.

As for spending the money on the Nelliampathy ghat road we had to spend lakhs of rupees upon the road and I think it has been well done. (*Hear, hear*). I think that an Hon'ble Member who had recently been over the road was immensely pleased and he was in raptures over the achievements of the Public Works Department. It was designed indirectly to help the agricultural population of the place. There was no idea at all to benefit anybody else except the agricultural population whom we wanted to help, though not primarily but in an indirect way. But on account of the present slump in prices our anticipations have not been realised. For that the Government are not responsible. This is by the by. As regards the main theme I think I have made myself clear that the Government is quite in earnest.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—May I know who is the man to decide whether a particular irrigation scheme has to be done or not?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—What I meant was that we have designed the canal and we have come to the conclusion that certain survey numbers of land will be benefitted; but it is the Diwan Peishkar to say whether the agriculturists will be in a position to convert the survey numbers into nilams and will be able to pay the additional water tax or whatever else will be demanded from them. So from a revenue point of view it has to be investigated afresh.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—It is the work of an irrigation expert to decide this question and not the Diwan Peishkar.

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—The Member is quite mistaken. Everywhere irrigation projects are investigated and decided upon by the Irrigation, the Public Works and Revenue Departments. Even in British India that is the case.

Mr. K. G. Nayar.—In the light of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Member for Engineering, I do not press the motion.

Resolution was, with leave, withdrawn.

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